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MESSAGES FROM THE MARSH

The E-Newsletter of the MEADOWLANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTER, a New Jersey Meadowlands Commission Facility operated by Ramapo College of New Jersey

February 2006

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EDUCATIONAL NEWS: Project SEE, Module Two

Educators and staff at the Meadowlands Environment Center and Ramapo College of New Jersey recently introduced area senior facilities to the second module of Project SEE - Senior Environmental Experiences.

Entitled "What is a Black-crowned night heron and would I want one in my back yard?" this module of the successful series introduced seniors to the function of fresh and salt marsh ecosystems in the Meadowlands. Staff presented marsh plants and animals; covered the migration patterns of birds; and discussed habitat destruction and restoration.

[To learn more...](#)

EVENTS AT THE CENTER

- **Winter Watercolors**

- Saturday, February 11
- 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Ages: 12 - Adult
- Members of the MEC and participating Nature Centers FREE
- Non-members \$5
- Pre-registration required.

Even if the weather outside is frightful, the Meadowlands landscape is delightful,

especially when studied through the eyes of an artist. All experience levels are invited to dabble in watercolors, learning about paints and papers, how this paint works, landscape composition, and finally, creation of your own take-home masterpiece. All materials included.

- **Hunters of the Night**
- Saturday, February 25th
- 10:00 a.m.
- Ages: 8 years old and up accompanied by an adult
- \$8 per person, \$7 members
- Pre-registration encouraged
- Walk-ins and groups welcome

Predators of the night, owls search for their elusive prey using a variety of highly evolved adaptations that enable them to overcome darkness. Residing at the top of the food chain, owls are appreciated by some and scorned by others. It's your job to decide which side of the table you reside at this interactive, educational program. Bring the family and see these creatures live to learn just how they survive in the deep abyss that is the night.

[To view an electronic version of the schedule...](#)

MEET THE STAFF: Farewell Pablo

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*This month we say goodbye to one of our environmental educators. **Pablo Zatz** is leaving the Meadowlands Environment Center and the Garden State for Virginia. Pablo will be pursuing his doctorate at the University of Virginia in the field of Science Education. We wish Pablo and his wife Robin all the best.*

#### **FLYWAY GALLERY: New Jersey Meadowlands Commission Employees**

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2nd Annual Employee Art Exhibit - February 7th through March 3rd

This month come see the artistic renderings of employees from the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission on display in the Flyway Gallery located off the lobby of the Meadowlands Environment Center.

[For more information on the NJMC Arts in the Meadowlands Program...](#)

MEC PARTNERSHIPS: Creativefest

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Sponsored by the Hudson County Coordinators of Gifted and Talented Programs in conjunction with the Hudson County Superintendent of Schools.

- February 8 & 9
- Meadowlands Environment Center
- *Open to the press*

#### **Participating Schools**

- Bayonne
- East Newark
- Guttenberg
- Harrison
- Kearny
- North Bergen
- Union City

- Weehawken
- Jersey City

The Creativefest is a convocation that allows participants to express their ideas and feelings through the arts. Participants may choose to create a piece of art or to express themselves through dance or theatre. Either way students will explore the world of the artist and discover their hidden talents during the two days of the creativefest.

The theme of the Creativefest this year is New Jersey. Workshops will, in some way, be related to our great state. Students will create something wonderful while they learn more about the state we call home.

[For additional information on Creativefest....](#)

## **MEC PARTNERSHIPS: Nature Program Cooperative**

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February NPC Event

- **Winter Watercolors**
- *Sponsored by the Nature Program Cooperative*
- Hosted by the Meadowlands Environment Center
- Saturday, February 11, 2006
- 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 PM Description available in the above "Events at the Center" listing.

Members Free; Non-members \$5.00 Any questions please call the Meadowlands Environment Center at (201) 460-8300.

The Nature Program Cooperative is a pooling of knowledge and resources among organizations in Bergen County that provide quality nature programs.

Throughout the year, different partners of the Co-op will host an outdoor activity or indoor educational program at a nature center or other appropriate location to which all group members are invited. We hope to encourage more people to visit the Meadowlands to the south, the Palisades to the east, the reservoirs to the north and the Highlands to the west, and everywhere in between.

When applicable, member discounts will apply to all Co-op partner members and supporters. For example, when the Meadowlands Environment Center hosts an event, members of all other groups pay the MEC member rate. Non-members are also welcome to attend. All events will be advertised in each group's newsletter.

MEC TEACHER ASSOCIATE PROGRAM: Event Reminder

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- **Project Learning Tree in the Urban Classroom**
- Wednesday, February 15, 2006
- 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Fee: \$10.00
- For K-8 teachers and scout leaders

This award-winning program is adaptable to a diversity of formal and non-formal teaching/learning environments, including urban settings. Using trees as models, students learn environmental content that correlates to standards in science, social studies, language arts, and math, while strengthening their higher-order thinking skills.

- **Get WET in the Meadowlands**

- Friday, February 24, 2006
- 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Fee: \$25.00
- For K-8 teachers

This Water Education for Teachers Curriculum and Activity Guide is a collection of over 90 science- based, interdisciplinary activities and lesson plans that are teacher-tested and classroom ready. We will sample activities that can supplement your existing curriculum or be used in planning longer units.

#### • **Meadowlands Self-Guided Teacher Associate Program**

- Friday, March 31 and Saturday, April 1, 2006
- 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. both days
- Fee: \$60.00
- For 4-12th grade teachers

If you'd like the flexibility of running your own field trips at the Meadowlands Environment Center and DeKorte Park, consider becoming a Self-Guided Teacher Associate. Over the course of two days, participate in an interdisciplinary study of our urban estuarine wetlands. Background information, hands on practice, field equipment, and pre and post lessons will be provided. For more information or to find out when the next round of training will occur, please contact: Teacher Associate Program Coordinator Meadowlands Environment Center 2 DeKorte Park Plaza Lyndhurst, NJ 07071 201-460-8300 [education@njmeadowlands.gov](mailto:education@njmeadowlands.gov)

[To learn more about MEC Professional Development opportunities...](#)

#### **SAVE THE DATE: June 10th - Meadowfest**

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Continuing its dedication to establishing the Meadowlands as a premiere eco-tourism destination, the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission announced on January 25th that "Meadowfest," a celebration of the Hackensack River, will take place on June 10 at Laurel Hill Park in Secaucus. The Meadowlands Liberty Convention Visitors Bureau will operate and organize the event, which will take the place of the discontinued Riverfest.

[For a related news release...](#)

Quick Links...

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- [MEC Website](#)
- [MEC Schedule of Events Registration](#)
- [MEC School Program Registration](#)
- [MEC Media Center](#)
- [New Jersey Meadowlands Commission](#)
- [Ramapo College of New Jersey](#)
- [Meadowlands Conservation Trust](#)

#### **Lara Rodriguez**

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